THE SEASON NOT FAR AWAY

Local Houses Already Opening Here and There.

New Antional Alight for Three Nights This Week-Bijou Follows With Vaudeville-Columbia and Academy Join This Month-Summer Resorts Continue.

One must read the advance notices to realize that the regular theatrical season to not only in sight, but already upon us. Summer has gone with incredible swiftness, and, after a period that has seemed wonderfully brief, the bill posters and ticket sellers have returned to the scenes of their labors. Local promise is very good and so large in quantity that the time of opening seems unnecessarily

This week will see two of the regular houses with their doors thrown wide to the public. Kernan's, always last to end and first to begin its year, offers the first of its "usual Monday matinees" tomorrow, and will henceforth be ready to transact business with its old patrons

On Thursday night the New National will join for three evenings, returning then to darkness for a brief period. The first place of amusement advertises "Robin Hood, Jr.," as its attraction. while the second is to give its stage over to the trial performances of the Cleve-land-Wilson Minstrels. Glen Echo will remain in running order, notwithstand-ing the luvasion, and the Jaxon Com-pany will there pursue its policy of giv-ing two operas each week. "Il Trova-tore" will be the bill on Monday, Tuesany and Wednesday, with "The Daugh-ter of the Begiment" for the remainder of the period. The roof garden closed Friday and will so remain hereafter. The immediate future of the remainder

local houses is just a trifle uncertain, though it is reasonably sure that both the Columbia and the Acad-emy will begin their season either the last welk in August or the first in Sep-On the 19th of that month th tenter. On the lain of that month for Lafayetic Square Opera House opena with a first production of the French farce, "Hotel Topsy-Turvey," and at out the same time the regular year be gins of the National. The Grand will re-main closed. Thus, within a month all of Washing on's theaters will be again in the field, and vocation will have passed.

The Jaxon Opera Company will open fits second week Monday with a culproduction of Verd's "Il Trovatore." On the presentation Mile, Diard will sing the part of Lesnora and Payne Clarke that of Manrico, while Winfred Goff is to sesume the lines of Count di Luna. The role of Azucena, the old gypsy, will be acted by Louise Engel.

In speaking of the performance recently the S. John Telegraph had to say:

"The Jaxon Company opened its engagement here last night with II Travatore. It not only justified the trigh reputation established after here last, but enhanced The appreciative audience showed les approposition by exacting numerous encores. Mile Diard, in the role of Les nors, proved herself an accomplished operate arcist. Her voice is one of great beauty and charm and her work is free and spontaneous. The whole of the cast acquisted lived finely, and contributed a time evening's entertainment. The singing of the chorus was vigorous, energetic, and showed the result of admirable train-ing. The dramatic situations were strongpresented, the contumes were elaborated and the scenic arrangements very

The company will play "Il Trovatore" at Gien Biho Monday, Tuesday and Wed-nesday evenings and for the balance of the week it will present "The Daughter of the Regiment." This very tuneful milltary comic opera dits very seldom been performed here, and should be a de-lightful novelty as well as a musical

"The Robin Hood, Jr.," Burlesquers will open Monday afternoon at the Lycoum Theater. The company is considered one of the strongest on the road, and is said to be made up of the very best e tulent, each performer enjoying an in-

pair of Irish mirth makers; Wats of Waltham, German sketch urtists Detephone, mimic par excellence, and the great colored team, the Bartons. The show is spoken of as being equipped in every detail from start to finish. Matinees will be given every day during the en

Manager Rapley, of the New Nationa Theater, will open his regular season on ext Thursday with the Cleveland-Wilson Minstrels. It may be a surprise to amuse ment lovers to see these two in combina-

for yours, and the fight raged from coast to coast. If Cleveland was the Napoleon Wilson was easily the Welling-This was to be the Waterloo car paign, but the fates were kind and friends other managers were weakening their forces their best policy would be to unite. forces their out poncy when of negotia and they did so after a deal of negotia. tion. Each show retains its organization, but the two march on separate sides of the street, each led by its head, and on the stage they perform in rollicking rivalry. Theirs is a happy family party, and the result is said to be the greatest eve-ning of black-face fun that has been giv-en in the whole gladsome history of min-

The combination of the shows resulted ertainment, Catcedo, "The King of the Wire," who performs new and un-heard-of feats on a slender steel strand high over the heads of the spectators. In the olio with him are Marion and Pearl, hurt you. pid-fire talkers and burlesque acrobats; no and Welch, grotesque gymnasts; e Troubadour Four, Fred Anderton and many others.

STAGE STORIES.

The was always a bit mad—poor child—had grown very handsome in the two years that had passed. But two years that had passed. But that she was possessed of an evil spirit. Her habits were strange and her ways and swage. She thought more than were

black hair and in her wild brown eyes. Certain gentlemen who had taken stray fancies for having their clothes fitted in her father's dingy shop used to say that her smile found its way into the crevices and through the door and upstairs to the street and the sunlight as any other same thing might have done. Jess took their speeches as a matter of course and only neered in reply. No one felt better than herself the truth of what they said and KERNAN'S LYCEUM IN THE VAN having been illy trained she did not know how to hide her knowledge, nor did she care. But on the contrary she had stood as a child of ten on the pavement that reached the middle of their windows and had stared eagerly at the flashily-dressed had stared eagerly at the flashily-dressed women who were allways passing. And after it was all over she had gone into the foul room she shared with a younger sister and had looked into the deformed mirror which hung there, wondering why, she, who was ten times as handsome as the creatures she had seen, might not al-so wear diamonds and silks that rustled as one walked and stood stiff when one remained still.

Old Alflo Nurmadez, whom accident had made her father, used to look up then made her father, used to look up then over the eternal pantaloons at which he was ever sewing, and frown. The girl was in danger and he knew it and cared little for her sake. Only if she ran away things would be different. There were six gentlemen who wore line clothes and drove in carriages who had brought their custom down east of Third Avenue and to him since Jessica had become beautiful. Perhaps they might not relish her leaving. Once Alifo had spoken to her about the matter, but there it had dropabout the matter, but there it had drop-ped. He never beat her. Aliio knew something of human nature and under-steed that it does little good to thrash girls with black hair and brown eyes.

with thick lips and square chins, with olive skins, and long, narrow fingers. After all there were few things to keep a restive girl near the shop. To those who knew nothing of them, there may be nevelly in harsh smells and dingy, to havely in harea smets and only, crowded rooms and in the rumble of the elevated overhead, but it is neither strange nor pleasant for those to whom sun and air come only at long intervals. On dazzling hot days that same elevated used to complain itself about the narrow and the fearful sights through it was forced to go. To Jessica she had understood the meaning of the word. It was at about that time that her mother had come home one night drunk

Jess cared no more for her parents tand they had ever done for her. As a baby they had ever done for her. As a baby she had gone at her tasks sullenly, But the end of the pistol to within an inch of Nita's hair. Then she closed her eyes the archestra was playing for the deeds. Nits was not as pretty as she nor half so strong. Perhaps it was both of these that made Jess love her. It is so delightful to have others trust us and do- The pend upon us when we ourselves under-stand how simple an affair it would be to used to pray and the elder girl never laughed at her. Now and again both would speak their Aves and Paters to-gether, only Jess would not kneel. The little one was the single person in

the neighborhood to whom Jess said a word when she did go. For a twelve-month she had been visiting the cheap theaters pear and had spent hours in staring at ugly pictures and betighted players outside under the gas lamps. Once she had seen on the stage a woman as beautiful as herself and had waited in the alleyway for her afterward. But the creature was not handsome without her red cheeks and pink fleshlings and Jess had gone home with a new wonder but an unshaken falth in self. Three days after she met the manager of the burlesou show. He, too, wore diamonds and seem ed happy. Jess asked to go with him and he looked her over, mentally unclothed her trim legs and bust, kissed her and assented. There were other conditions, but they were triffes to Jess. She had as well live with one man as another

When she returned home Affic had con-some distance to deliver a pair of trou-sers. Jess did not wait for him to comback. She merely took with her a string of beads and two red kerchiefs that she had bought shortly before, but left be-hind the more costly things that had been given her. They might help to appease the wrath of her father when he found ne. Before leaving she kissed Nita three times on the mouth and once on the forehead. The child threw both arms around lier sister and clung there as though she had been frightened. Somethough she had been frightened. Some-thing rose in her eyes and Jess would have cried for the first time in her life had hat the sister preceded her. She was still subling when Jess opened the front door and strode defiantly out of the house. The wanderer did not know that there The wanderer did not know that there is a proverb about all hot being gold that glisiers, but in less than a year she found it out. She was hurt on the first day of her new experience when she found that the sparkling things she had seen on the the sparkling things she had seen on dights were not diamonds but glass. After that she was always miserable. Other women in the company were unkind to her and often Stern, the manager, would come to their hotel drunk and would beat She would have killed any other

her. She would have killed any other man, but he had never feared to strike her and she loved him. Not even the blow he hit her with a chair one morning made her cry—less never cried.

But she was unhappy. Had not the paint and the music and the lights hidden it those who knew her in the guidence would have seen that her face was been that her face was not so round, but that her eyes were big-ger than of yore. Had k not been for the sister, Jessica might have gone buck, but she would never let Nita know of her numiliation. Through all the rest of i flagged nor wavered. It was through Nita that an accident occurred one night. Earlier in the afternoon Stern had told Jess that on the Saturday before he had met her sister and the woman had broodmet her sister and the woman had drouged ed over it all day. Just before the per-formance she determined to sacrifice her pride and take advantage of their pres-ence near home to warn the child. She had left the theater and was passing the from lights, when the manager stopped her. "Where are you going?" he asked, leaning so far over that she could smell the liquor on his breath. But she answered, "I'm going to tell Nita about

"The hell you are," was his reply, and The neil you are, was its reply, and in an all-star arrangement. George Wil-san and Billy Emerson are names dear to every theatergoer in the country. Their songs and sayings have become popular classics. Emerson's "If I Could a policeman came and asked questions. Only Pick the Winner" and Wilson's "Some one knocked her down," cried a collection of the country of the country of the country. papular classics. Emerson's "If I Could a Pale Could and Could Pick the Winner" and Wilson's "Some one knocked her down," cried a country of the Winner" and Wilson's "Some one knocked her down," cried a country of the Wilson's "Some one knocked her down," cried a country of th other star, while John Queen is also put-ting in his year with the company. Both Cleveland and Wilson have always been strong on good second parts. This year they have as a leader in that portion of Then she staggered to her feet. "No," she said, "let me alone—can't you?" And after the crowd had vanished the

manager walked to where Jess stood, lean-ing against one of the bill boards. "I'm sorry," he muttered. "I didn't mean to BULLY. "Keep your sorrow to yourself," she answered defantly and went back to her

pany. Jessica did not speak to or even notice her. Afterward, this was cited in court to prove jealousy and the jury cour: to prove jealousy and the jury agreed that it accomplished its purpose But juries do not know everything. Nits

Her habits were strange and her ways and savage. She thought more than was good for her. All night long she would lay awake with her big eyes fixed heavily with furies—or at least they did not weigh with the jury that tried her, and so she is to be hanged tomorrow. And tomortow is only twenty-four hours away.

Next to her madness the undeing of fees was in her beauty—in her tangled.

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Next to her madness the undeing of large the fought more than was good for her. All night long she would have because of the English notions he must have large the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay objects for the English notions he must have large the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay because of the English notions he must have large the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay objects for the English notions he must have large the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay because of the English notions he must have large the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay objects for the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay because of the English notions he must have large the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay the feet was in the fact that as soon as Mr. Mackay objects for the feet that as soon as Mr. Mackay the wild hone with him.

Burr McIntosh has returned from Cub.

The fees was in the fact that as soon as Mr. Mackay objects was the picked to be published he picked to and savage. She thought more than was

in a fierce grip and went out into the rain to wait for Stern. There was a nook in one corner of the theater and there she hid herself. Her face was flushnook in one corner of the theater and there she hid herself. Her face was flush-ed and her breath very hot indeed. At last the manager came out of the frost door. She heard his steps drawing nearer and nearer and her fingers closed upon the trigger of her weapon. He stopped two feet ahead of her and she took aim. Then he struck a match to light his pipe and held it to the tobacco. It colored his face with a red glow. He was smiling and she crawled back into her corner again. She could not kill him And so things went on. Nearly every-

one in the company thought that Jess had gone mad, but others thought her jealous of her sister. The two seidom spoke and the worry of the elder had drawn her skin and made her very ugly. No one knew it, but she followed Nita and the manager everywhere, dodging around dark streets and running after hired carriages until her breath was spent and she was forced to sink down upon the curb. Often she was next to them in the elevated and more often still she was standing outside of their room at the hotel. But the manager never struck Nita.

On a certain afternoon Jess passed in the street one of the men who had come to her father's shop for the purpose of seeing her. She shuddered and shrank into a corner as he came her way. Still he looked at her, but did not stop. Oid Alfio himself would not have known her had she walked into the basement where he still sat sewing on the pantaloons.

One Saturday night Jess sat in her dressing room and thought of the meeting. Then she heard voices. In the next apartment Stern and Nita were quarre ing loudly. Angry words floated across the partition and curses and threats. Jess got up and searched in the trunk for her revolver. She had not found it when Nita cried out, or things would have been difhad tightened over the steel as they had In the shadows of the theater, and she had crept to her door and opened it a lit-tle. All was still and silent. She listened, with her nails deep in her palms, but there was not a sound. After a moment Stern stepped out of the next room and walked downstairs.

Then Jessica crept into the hall as

might a ghost and opened the apartment from which the manager had come. Nitz head in her hands. She was sobbing as she had sobbed on the afternoon Jess hed left home, and the old lump came mother had come home one night drunk and sobbed on the afternoon Jess and had stepped from the moving surface car directly against one of the iron poles that support the road above. She was still drunk when they picked her up and when she stole across the floor to where her sister sat. A loose board creaked loudly, but Nita did not hear it, Strange!

the fall of an occasional seat outside, Then the elder sister pulled the trigger. The report drowned the noise of a fall and Jess had her eyes closed so that she could see nothing. But the blood splashcrush them did we but care to do so. Nita | ed all over her spangled tights and into

"That's right." Jess said to the police officers, succringly, a moment after, "I guess you'd better put them things on my hands. I shouldn't wonder if I was stronger than the whole lot of you."

BRIEFLY TOLD.

Eleanora Duse is very ill. Chauncey Olcott has returned from bis

rip abroad. Arthur W. Pinero is in England werking upon his new comedy for John Hare Mr. and Mrs. Creston Clarke will open

John J. McNally's latest farce is to b alled "A Reign of Error." Madame Modjeska will next season

maks elaborate productions of patra" and "Tweffth Night."

Louise Hepner, formerly prima dofina with "The Bailet Girl," will next season have the title role in "Jack and the Beanstalk. Kathryn Mulkins, a clever little woman who was last seen here with "The Man From Mexico," has been engaged for a leading role in "A Misfit Marriage,"

At the recent celebration of Bastile Day in Paris all the subsidized theaters gave free performances at which as many peo-

self an ewiate of forty-four acres in Eng-land, which, of course, will involve the immigration of several hundred good

Mario Tempest was a week ago Wednesday married to Cosmo Stuart, an English actor, which, had the occurrence been in this country, would have meant a sketch for two and vandeville.

Olga Nethersole has recovered from the njuries she received in a railway accident a May 12. Miss Nethersole stands a double risk on such occasions—there is so much of her to get hurt.

William Gillette, whose "Too Much Johnson" was not a success in London, has returned to this country and will remain at his sister's home in Hartford until time for his opening at the Empire Theater.

Della Fox is to star next season in a ew operatic comedy by Edgar Smith. empletes about six sets of arrange the coming year. She must be a whole amily in herself.

"Olaf Liljekrans," a play by Ibsen, had production in Berlin last month. The ime required in presentation is two even-ngs, more than half of which is said to the chief character.

There was received last week Times a handsome portrait of Ferris Hartman in "The Purser," accompanied by a circular which set forth some of the excellent press notices he has been re-celving in the far West.

Harry B. Smith has embarked for America bringing with him the libret-to of Alice Nielson's new opera, "The Fortune Teller." The music of the piece s by Victor Herbert, and it is said to be in his brightest and most tuneful vein. Anna Held and Madame Calve were joint features at an entertainment given recently in Paris. Now the question arises as to whether Miss Held is above par in France or Madame Caive is below

ar in this country. The whole matter is Mr. and Mrs. Russ Whytal have returned from a cycling tour through Holland, Germany and France, and are at present in England. It is to be hoped that the trip was so pleasant that both are likely to forget next season's annual fallure t

For Fair Virginia." "Cuba Free," "The Maine Avenged" and "A Daughter of Cuba," compose the week's out-put in war plays. If this continues a clause will soon have to be added to the Episcopal creed reading, 'From warrants and wars and war plays good Lord deliver us!"

Go-Won-Go-Mohawk will begin her annual tour next October in New York. Someone should take the Indian actress and chain her. That seems to be the only chance the public will ever have of being rid of her and perhaps some one may be found one of these days brave enough to undertake it.

Richard Mansfield arrived a week ago Wednesday from London, where he studied Coquelin's performance of "Cyrano de Bergerac." It is not stated whether or not a duty was charged Mr. Mansfield because of the English notions he must have brought home with him.

THE WAR TAX ON THEATERS

Many Inequities.

Humors of an English Play Bill-Two Clever Poems by Edward Mackay-Faults of the Roof Garden-Comment on Minor Matters of the Week.

That people should not dabble with natters of which they know nothing us been proven beyond a doubt by the trouble that has been fermenting among thearrical people since the passage of three clauses concerning them in the war revenue bill. Probably never before has a judicial body penned such a series of inaccuracies, ambiguosities and inequities as are contained in this section of the law. There is no single paragraph upor which one may not place a dozen interpretations, and when Commissione Scott tried to straighten things out he only succeeded in showing his complete gnorance of dramatic affairs and turned the trend of the provisions from uncertain justice to certain injustice.

In its original state the bill provides that all theaters, museums and concert halls should be taxed the sum of \$100 yearly, that amount to be paid by their proprietors. Immediately there followed a squabble between the owners, lessees and managers of these places as to who was the person intended, and things were all at sea when some one in the law division of the Treasury added to the clause a line which provided that "whenever any such edifice is under lease was sitting in front of the glass with her at the passage of this act the tax shall be paid by the lessee, unless otherwise stip niated by the parties of said lease." And then it occurred to some victim

that there was no particular fairness in

rating a hall situated over some hotel in a town of 800 inhabitants in the same class with paintial theaters in the larger cities. While merely nominal to the last class, the tax was in many cases prohibitive to the first and a great deal of trouble ensued. As some of the dramatic papers pointed out editorially, under those conditions a house the gross receipts of winch would not aggregate \$3,000 a year, was bound to contribute the same amount charged against metropolitan places of amusement the returns of which frequently amounted annually to the sum of \$100,600. The provision was ridiculous and absurd on its face. Many papers took the matter up, the Mirror leading the van. and in a short time affairs were so adjusted that theaters in cities of less than 25,000 population were not at all liable. While this only modified the injustice, it was much better than the former ruling and seemed to content all concerned.

This being arranged, Commissions Scott stepped in with the astonishing statement that all theatrical companies playing in cities under the above stated population were legally and rightfully population were legally and rightfully circuses, and, under a following clause, must pay the sum of \$100 as a tax for every State in which they appeared. Where Mr. Scott obtained his idea of this ruling it would be hard to say. Websier offers three definitions of the word circus, but one of them gives the faintest ground for the belief that small theatrical companies come under that head.

If the first chause had been recombinities.

If the first clause had been prohibitive the second served to shut out nearly ev-ery small combination in the country. Barnstormers whose receipts rarely come up to the sum of \$100 an evening, and who play only two or three towns in a State, found that the law would be ruinous. A manager writing to the Mirror explained od gratis.

Nat Goodwin has purchased for himParkershurg, W. Va. If he was extremeby lucky his three performances would bring in gross, receipts to the amount of about \$250. From this he would have to pay a tax of \$100 on Monday night, \$100 pay a tax of \$100 on Monday night, \$190 on Tuesday night and a third \$190 on Wednesday night. With what was left he might pay salaries, railway fares, theater rants, advertising expenses and draw a nice little profit to himself. A company playing fifteen States during a season would be taxed the exorbitant sum of \$1,500, while theaters in larger cities would contribute only one-fifteenth of would contribute only one-fifteenth o

that sum. After much talk Mr. Scott was made to see the absurdity of the whole affair and the law was modified so that smal companies now come under the "other" head and are taxed only \$10 in each State in which they appear. While that, too, i large, it is better than the first sum, and player folk will probably be satisfied un-til Commissioner Scott breaks out again Even as it is, one cannot help thinking that the actor is paying for an unusually large part of this war. Hesides the taxes iarge part of this way factor and which everyone has to meet, he falls her to many burdens that fall to no one cles so extensively. It seems time that this Government should awake to the fact hat the theater is not on a par with the distillery, but is an educational institu-tion far less entitled to be taxed than our

The title of poet laureate, which was The title of poet lanreate, which was held here for some time by Charles Mackay, must now have descended to his brother. During the last two or three weeks Edward Mackay has turned out some gems of werse, most of which have been printed in these columns. His latest the worn heater than the street was the street of the stre is even better than the rest, and contains a surprising depth of thought. It is aptly entitled, "Forever," and reads:

'TIII the last sweet note
Of song is dead;
'Till the distant sky
In truth be wed sky
To the sea, and Life's Eternity,
Ah, Love will be-forever bel

And the heart may ache
And the heart may break,
And our idols fall
In shattered hopes, but the thrush
Still sings in the leafy tree,
The sky ne'er weds the distant sea;
So Love will be 'till Eternity. And in a lighter and happier vein Mr

Mackay has written the following line to "The Matinee Girl;" The season has ended, The actor has wended His way to the moun But soft o'er him ste here comes a sad feeling At losing all else but a mem'ry

In ribbons and laces, On getting thy graces, Thy smiles ever ready to vie with thy tears! Of heat we were mindless, Of all save thy kindness— The days when we played for the matinee dear

its curl.

Thy mem'ry we treasure.

And hope for the pleasure

Of meeting again the dear matinee girl.

of meeting to mar the k And the only thing to mar the kindly

verity of the lines is the knowledge of the fact that as soon as Mr. Mackay knew it was to be published he picked up his traps and set sall for Virginia.

example of this fact. It is in the form of a bill advertising a performance to be given "in aid of the Canine Defense League—Anti-muzzling."

Following the statement of the benefit's

Further Trouble Caused by Its purpose comes an announcement of the performers to appear, prefaced by the line that "among those interested who will be seen" are so-and-so. The average reader would be struck with the idea that in regard to an anti-muzzling law those interested would be the dogs, but this evident NOTES ON FACT AND FICTION by never occurred to those who composed the bill. The place at which the affair is to be given to named as "Queen's Hall (small hall)." This remarkable frankness seems in direct opposition to the American method. Had one of our compatriots dubbed that building anything it would doubtless have been the Grand

Central Opera House.

Later on one is informed that tickets may be obtained in Nutfield, Surrey and Mr. Ravenhill, a fact that would seem to presage vivisection for the unfortunate Mr. Ravenhill.

But perhaps the funniest part of the advertisement is the announcement of a recitation entitled, "The First Kiss,"

PEOPLE I'VE LAUGHED AT.

ormance here occurred on a Thursday night and each of the local writers who attended was introduced to the manager and the author. From the latter personage he learned that from the time the company had left Hoyt's Theater there had not been a losing date and by the former he was taught the full value of the play. When he left the influences of both it was with the purpose of buying

giomeration of stolen trash. The audience sat around the house giving excellent imitations of first mourners at a funeral and enjoyed nothing so much as on the 'phone rang and a boy who had answered it informed me that I was the person wanted. Upon responding I recognized the voice of a friend whom I had seen that night at the theater. After a second's conversation the trend of talk turned to the farce and asked my opinion of it. Whereupon I launched forth bitterly and expressed the confident knowl edge that never before had so wretched a sample of mundane idlocy been pawned off on the misplaced confidence of an unsuspecting public. Finally breath gave out and I stopped. Then a voice-not the voice of my friend but that of the play's

the first critic who has said so." "Ah." I replied, "that goes to show that most writers have more politeness than honesty." But there is in my bosom only two or three towns in a State, and that the law would be ruinous. A mager writing to the Mirror explained at the first bookings of his season were Cumberland, Md., Uniontown. Pa. and

author-remarked blandly, "Well, you're

Only a short time before that incident E. H. Sothern came to the Lafayette and produced "The Lady of Lyons." His reading of the piece did not satisfy me, and I said so through these columns. Upon the day that the remarks were published an assistant went to the hotel at which Mr. Sothern was stopping, and sent up his card, requesting an interview. Within three minutes the beliboy returned with a message scrawled on the back of the pasteboard. The gentleman was deeply sorry, but he had not as yet recovered from the effect of our criticism and was, as a result, quite unfit to see anyone. Which was where Mr. Sothern

And this reminds me of an incident concerning Saharet, the dancer, who came here in a glow of success and Rice's "French Maid." The same dramatic writer had called upon her for an inter-view and had been astonished at learn-ing that she did not think American audiences at all enthusiastic. She related how she was frequently cheered and ap-plauded in London, and wound up by re-marking that the "Johnnies" there often came around to the stage door and begged the privilege of kissing her slipper. And she offered to grant the caller that courtesy. He ungratefully refused and treated the incident in a more or less uncompilmentary way upon reviewing it later. Time passed on and the organiza-tion left town. And then there came through the mails one day a neatly wranped box, and in it was packed a tiny foot of crystallized sugar. Tucked up inside of this was a note—"Eat this—it

will be good for your disposition."

Perhaps the least pleasant thing in the world that can happen to a man is to have to sit and appropriate for himself nave to see and appropriate for himself a terrific hauling over the coals original-ly intended for some one else. On such an occasion it is quite impossible for the victim to make the slightest defense, and, on the whole, the wisest thing he can possibly do is to remain quiet with a martyr-like smile on his face and a piece of brick in his hand. After he has finished using the smile he can go out into some sequestered street and throw tones at himself.

ville could hardly be said to have been a magnificent success. Miss Morris is getting a trifle passe, and, while she is still a delightful woman, she has ceased to be a good actress. Worst of all, on this occasion she was seriously hampered by the possession of one of Kenneth Lee's electricia. possession of one of Kenneth Lee's sketches, a one-act tragedy entitled "Blind Justice." All of this and a little more I wrote on the Friday before she left and sent down to the composing room for use on the following Sunday. Then I dropped around to call on the lady and pay my respects.

She was not in the best of humors.

Some Philadelphia critic had not been at all chary in offering their opinion of her work and she was not pleased over it. The knights of the pen from the Quaker City were given a rather warm volume of adjectives and anything in the vocabulary that happened to be at once lady-like and uncomplimentary. Aftonce lady-like and uncomplimentary. After a few minutes of this, I was constrained to ask what the gentlemen had said. In return she handed me a clipping with the request that I peruse and give an opinion of the contents and their author. The ideas expressed were my own almost word for word. Nearly every line was

GOSSIP OF THE PLAYERS

Washington Thespians Much in Evidence Just Now.

SCENE SETTING AT THE GLEN

Washington Davis and "The Pr vost Guard"-Eugenie Blair to Have a New Piny-John T. Warde Goes Fishing-Another First Production for This City.

Presenting grand opera on an impro

world, when one comes to think of it. a recitation entitled, "The First Kiss," (sixty-ninth edition), of which upwards of 70,000 have been sold." Which says the production of any say the production of any sort of opera on any stage but one fitted exactly for its reception is difficult. As a general thing, musical dramas are very demandatory in regard to their scenic equipment, and every convenience of an essentially modern theat which are the scenic equipment, and every convenience of an essentially modern theat event we shall probably hear of her often during the year, and can trust to her ability to carry her bravely through. In fact, one may say the production of PEOPLE I'VE LAUGHED AT.

Memories of Contemporary Players.
Sometimes frankness is a virtue and some times it is an accident. Strange as it may seem the class to which candor belongs has a very marked effect upon its results. The frankness that is a virtue is generally uppleasant for the person criticised—the frankness that is an accident makes no one half so uncomfortable as the critic.

If one reads the dramatic papers carefully now-a-days he cannot help knowing that "A Bachelor's Honeymoon" closed its season last May in Washington. The first performance here occurred on a Thursday formance here occurred on a Thursday in Washington. The first performance here occurred on a Thursday was a second that in removing the wings they could be turned to a position horizontal with the stage, and withdrawn for the person commance here occurred on a Thursday was a second that in removing the wings they could be turned to a position horizontal with the stage, and withdrawn for the person commanded for theat first production is announced for Washington in the opening here of Smyth and Blee's comelians in "A Mismand correct setting of the number of sets carried. When the Amphiltheater at Gien Echo was originally arranged for theat rical performances, the difficulties to be met were many. In the first place, the rows of seats on all sides hedged in the platform so closely that without going the wing and back please. This makes five chances fit Marriage. This makes five Canisa in the opening here of Smyth and Blee's comelians in "A Mismand carried performances, the difficulties to be met were many. In the first place, the rows of seats on all sides hedged in the platform so closely that without going its manged for theat first production is announced for Washington in the opening here of Smyth and Blee's comelians in "A Mismand carried performances, the difficulties to be met were many. In the first place, the rows of seats on all sides hedged in the platform so closely that without going its in Hall Caine's 'Christian.' 'Hote ter is necessary to the rapid shifting horizontal with the stage, and withdrawn without coming in contact with the raised seats.

The worst feature of the whole business was in that the building was not sufficiently high to permit of the back sets being drawn up out of sight. When their tops touched the ceiling their bottoms hung in plain view of the audience. The carpenter of the Glen speedily arranged a scheme whereby a second set of ropes might be attached to the center of

stacles that have not as yet been sur-mounted at the Glen. The excess bur-gage carried by the Jaxon Opera Com-pany has made their immediate solution necessary, and has set to work the brains the closing overture. The critics left of everyone about the place. Probably never before has any member of the troupe realized the many conveniences afforded by a theater that was built for the purpose of giving the desirable sub-junctives of a dramatic or musical per-

> Hamilton Adams, a young accorsome reputation, has retired from the stage and entered into the cigar business in this city. Were it not for Mr. Adams' well-known shilty and integrity one might suggest in connection with his change that perhaps he is anxious to use in one way the cabbages acquired in an-

> Ellen Vockey is still engaged in instructing classes in elecution at Ashi park. She will not go on the road next season but will remain in Now York for the purpose of continuing her dramatic and musical studio there. Mass Vockey gave a number of readings last spring in Gotham and was generally voted a pro-

Week after week Gotham resting Boston's th stergoers. Week af brings forth flattering notices of her work and of her popularity. In a revival of "The New Boy," which occurred recently at the Castle Square. Miss Sanders was the most talked-of member of the cast. And now Jay Benton, the foremost critic of the Hub declares that the lady should assurring go with Roana Vokes' old play. "The Schoolmistress." There is no doubt of the success that would awa't the actress in that bright little comedy and if might prove a really good idea for her to try it. good idea for her to try it.

Robert Downing, will continue her stel-lar work next season and expects to cre-ate a sensation early in September with her new play. This is a quaint story by Wingrave Bathon, and is entitled "A Cre-ole Courtship." It is said to afford Miss Blair ample opportunity for her prowess as an emotional actress and may serve to place her among the foremost trage diennes in the country. The first presendeinhia.

on Union Roof Garden were two local people, both of whom made rather good impressions. The first of these was pretty Lucie Rogers, who will be remembered for her clever impersonations while with W. H. Crane. Miss Rogers put in last season with "The Gay Matinee Girl," and was widely praised for her chic and brightness. While even the most friendly disposed could hardly accuse her knowing how to sing, she dances grace fully and has a certain piquant charm about her stage presence that wins for her many admirers. She is a decided acquisition to vaudeville. The second of the pair was Willis Hepner, a Washingonian by birth and breeding despite the Monsieur placed before his name ner is still new as a magician and shows it, but he is apt in a wonderful degree and may be expected to take his place with the best of them some day. Working under manifest disadvantages last ek, he nevertheless managed tify his audiences and to win a hearty recall every night. A little time will do much for him in every way.

News comes from Long Branch that George Broderick, formerly of the Parry combination, is singing with a sumn opera company at that resort. During last week the organization gave "Pina-fore," on a ship anchored out in the bay and while this removal probably would have been greeted with delight by the populace in the case of many perform-ers, it is said that no less than 10,000 of them followed the big basso to his lair in order to hear his rendering of the solos given the captain. The cast included be-sides himself, J. Aldrich Libbey, Robert E. Graham, Leonard Walker, Kate Trav er, and Mabella Baker, but Broderick is mentioned as having shone quite as much in comparison as he could have by contrast. He should find a ready welcome upon his next return to the New Jersey

Eddle Davis and Sol Goldsmith return ed to this city last week with number-less tales of their success on the road. less tales of their success on the road. The team held the boards for nine weeks at Electric Park, Baltimore, and were as pleased with their experience as the audiences must have been. Mr. Goldsmith will be remembered as a clever smith will be remembered as a clever amateur here and Mr. Davis as an ex-

Washington Davis is said to have arranged for the speedy production of his military drama, "The Provost Guard," military drama, "The Provost Guard," which was given some time ago at the Marble Hall Theater, Soldiers Home. The piece has very little, if any, merit, and if Mr. Davis is to be financially interested in the venture he had best take good advice and remain home until the hundred and one other projected battle plays have gone to the wall. The trouble with Spain may have suggested many topics for dramatization, but it cannot make a good production out of a bad one. Still, the author is a Washington boy, and if he must have his filing there will be none here who will not wish him the fullest and heartlest measure of success.

eedingly graceful dancer and female im-

Elemora Browning, whose clever work with the Columbia Stock Company will be recalled, is at present rusticating in New York, and trying incidentally to decide which of two very good offers to take for next season. One of these is to play leads with a stock company new being formed, and the other is to go on the real with Julia Arthur. While accept vised stage is not the easiest task in the

Wilton Lackaye, of this city, was a specially honored guest of the Clover Club in Philadelphia recently, on the occasion of the outlog of that organization with the Morelton Club, at Torresdale. Mr. Lackaye is a folly good fellow, while his Irish gallantry and wit make him a companion equally pleasant to the men and to the women on such occasions.

John Philip Sousz is to receive a postboth it was with the purpose of buying several bottles of anti-fat in order to offset the effect of a long perdiod of hearty laughter.

Strange as it may seem, the entertainment lacked strongly in that it did not entertain. Probably never before or since was there penned such a hopeless conwas there penned such a hopeless contagget may be attached to the center of the canvasca. By pulling these first the hangings were made to double before being hauled up. But even this was so difficult that it is still necessary to drop the curriain for every change, and the stage hands are inclined to taking down the scenes rather than lifting them above the flies.

There are an even dozen other liftle obtagles that have not as yet been surtagles that have not say yet been surtion as captain of musicians of the Sixth tarm Corps. Where the advantage of this touches Mr. Soma is not apparent, but it is to be presumed that he is benetion as captain of musicians of the Sixth tarm Corps. Where the advantage of the step and the stage hands are inclined to taking down the scenes rather than lifting them above the flies. tion as captain of musicians of the Sixth Army Corps. Where the advantage of this touches Mr. Sousa is not apparent, to be imminently successful. In this, as in "El Capitan," the libretto has been contributed by Charles Klein, author of 'Dr. Beigraff."

Margaret Dibdin, daughter of Fanny her of the Bond Stock Company at the New National Theater, has signed to play leads with the Shubert Stock Company. Miss Dibdin is a wonderfully clever woman and her success is a matter of certainty.

John F. Wards, local correspondent for the Dramatic Mirror, wrapped up his typewriter the other day and sauntered off to St. George's Island for a fortnight's fishing. During his absence his column in the Mirror will be empty, all of Mr Warde's ingenuity and imagination at the present time being amployed in the con-cotton of bass stories. The training he will receive in that line should fit him eminently as aide-de-camp to Gen. eminently as aide-de-camp to Blanco should the war continue.

Margaret Mayo has finished her en gagement in Rochester and returned to New York, where she is at present com-Nothing can be more gratifying to Washington then the knowledge of the made here well in Rochester and was the recipient of many kindly attentions has worme but way into the hearts of before leaving. Mrs. Finding is also before leaving. Thirty-eighth Street.

> The Dramatic News and Times of last ing picture of Alethe Craig, a daughte of Commander Craig, of the Navy Department. The lady is said to be an acc plished actress, whose success in a productions as "A Whee Child." "The Lost Paradise." Two Orphans," "Charley's Aunt" and "The White Squadron" entitle her to the

Edward Mackay left this city last Edward Mackay left this city last. Thursday to spend a week in Riverton, Va., prior to joining a Southern stock company. Mr. Mackay is a hard worker, and his conscientfous efforts with the Columbia's players have earned him a rest. His admirers here trust that his vacation will be none the less pleasant because of its brevity.

Katherine Grey arrived in New York on July 20, much restored in health by her long trip abroad. Miss Grey was not at all well when she left this city hat at all well when she test this cary that year after severing her connection with the Columbia Company and grew much worse during the month following. After the failure of "A Southern Romanca" she was confined in a private hospital in Gotham and left her bed only to sail for Europe. She is said to have completely recovered. Miss Grey will act as leadrecovered. Miss Grey will act as leading lady next season for Charles Coghlan, bet womanly charm and natural ease being set what is required in the principal sie of his new play.

ia, will leave this week for Atlantic City to borne until his house opens later in the month. In case his mother accomes him the pair will probably be met there by Geoffrey Stein and the vacation will take the nature of a family reunion.

story teller in this part of the country than Will Carleton, of the Jaxon Opera Company. Despite the existing famine in the joke market Mr. Carleton is never short for an anecdote of some kind-generally the best. One of his latest con eerns a certain well-known Irish divine, m, for the sake of a name, might be called Pather Scanlan. It seems that this priest was wonderfully popular all over his parish and had not only the respect but the devout affection of every member of his brood.

This was proven one day when Pat Ca-sey, the child of a neighboring laborer, came down with the typhoid, and grew worse so rapidly that it was deemed advisable to attend to his spiritual as well as his physical needs. Accordingly Father Donovan, of the next parish, was sent for and came ish, was sent for and came hastily, riding over a distance of some dozen miles to the siek bed. But after he had seen that the lad was on a fair way to recovery, he thought over the journey he had taken, and, somewhat punzled, queried of the old man about the matter. "I thought that this was Father Scanlan's parish," he suggested, "It is," replied Casey, the elder. The priest revised "Well" he said "You'll excuse replied Casey, the elder. The priest nused "Well," he said, "You'll excuse paused. "Well," he said. "You'll excuse me asking the question, but why did you send eleven miles for me when the fath-er was only a stone's throw away?" Both members of the Casey family seem-ed much shocked at once, and the la-borer was really offended at the query. "Faith," he exclaimed, "an' do ye think it would be the likes o' myself to rick Exthe Searlan with the typhaid favor?"

Father Scanlan with th' typhoid fever?